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TODAY - April 6, 2009

Loma Linda University

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# TODAY

- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Medical Center
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Children's Hospital
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Medical Center—East Campus
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Behavioral Medicine Center
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Health Care
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Heart & Surgical Hospital
- Faculty Medical Group of LLUSM
- Faculty Physicians & Surgeons of LLUSM



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

## Final Innovating Excellence program rolled out

BY JAMES PONDER

On Tuesday, March 31, 2009, unit 3700, the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, brought the 15-month era of Innovating Excellence rollouts to a triumphant close throughout the Loma Linda University Medical Center campus with a ceremony befitting the historic occasion.

Innovating Excellence, or IE as it's called, is a staff-developed program designed to improve patient satisfaction by implementing more than 2,000 patient-centered elements. The goal, according to Ruthita J. Fike, MA, CEO and administrator of the Medical Center, is to facilitate the corporate vision of "Innovating excellence in Christ-centered health care." Ms. Fike notes that the program got its start in August 2006 when "gifted teams of front-line employees ... collaborated with administration to redesign the way we deliver care."

The March 31 ceremony began at 3:00 p.m. when Sherry Fraser, RN, a nurse on the NICU, regaled guests with a vocal solo reminding them of the institution's mission "to make man whole." Following that, Gerald R. Winslow, PhD, vice

president for mission and culture, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and invited James Pappas, MD, vice president for quality and patient safety, to reflect on the Innovating Excellence process. Dr. Pappas recalled how Innovating Excellence grew out of a desire, on the part of the administration and staff of the Medical Center, to maintain the organization's high levels of patient loyalty while simultaneously increasing its patient sat-

isfaction ratings on surveys conducted by the Gallup organization.

Janel Isaef, RN, MA, patient care director of LLU Children's Hospital, commented on the team spirit that has characterized the staff's attitude of willing cooperation with the principles of Innovating Excellence since the first unit rolled out in January of 2008.

Zareh Sarrafian, MBA, administrator of Children's Hospital, followed Ms. Isaef's remarks and



Officials of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital gather in front of the waiting area on the neonatal intensive care unit to cut the ceremonial ribbon commemorating unit 3700's rollout of Innovating Excellence principles. The 3700 rollout on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, marked the final unit to officially adopt the Innovating Excellence program.

spoke of the importance of continuing to stay open to continuing process improvements along the way. He introduced Ricardo Peverini, MD, chief of neonatology at Children's Hospital, who thanked the staff for its excellent work in making this event possible before introducing Randy Roberts, DMin, senior pastor of the Loma Linda University Church, as keynote speaker for the occasion.

In his remarks, Pastor Roberts applied an important concept from 1980s social philosopher John Naisbitt to the mission of Children's Hospital.

"In an increasingly high-tech world," Pastor Roberts began, "it is vital to treat patients in what John Naisbitt calls 'high-touch' ways. This means treating them in ways that value their humanity. This can be accomplished by treating people the way Jesus treated them—touching the untouchable, caring for the unlovely, listening to the hurting, and extending comfort."

"This is particularly important in a medical environment," Pastor Roberts continued. "Since patients are surrounded by so many evidences of 'high-tech,' it is easy to

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## Loma Linda University mourns tragic loss of six graduates in plane crash

COMPILED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

Two Seventh-day Adventist campuses were shocked by the tragic news that a plane carrying 14 people had crashed into a cemetery in Butte, Montana, on Sunday, March 22.

On board were three families and the pilot—a total of 14—who all perished in the accident.

They were on their way to a family vacation that would bring together 11 members of the Ching family and 19 members of the Feldkamp family at a ski resort outside of Bozeman, Montana.

Five of the adult family members attended or graduated from Pacific Union College, located in Angwin, California, while all six adult family members were alumni of Loma Linda University.

Brent Ching, DDS, a dentist practicing in the Chico area, graduated from Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in 1998.

Dr. Ching's wife, Kristen Mautz Ching, RN, was part of the LLU School of Nursing class of 2000. Their two children—Hailey (age 5) and Caleb (age 3)—were travel-

ing with them on the plane.

Erin Jacobson, MD, an ophthalmologist practicing in the Napa area, was a member of the LLU School of Medicine class of 2000.

His wife, Amy Feldkamp Jacobson, was a dental hygienist who graduated from the LLU School of Dentistry's dental hygiene program in 1997.

The Jacobsons had three children with them: daughters Taylor (age 4) and Ava (age 3), and son Jude (age 2).

Michael Pullen, DDS, graduated from the LLU School of Dentistry in 1999 and was practicing in Valley Springs, California. His wife, Vanessa Feldkamp Pullen, MD, graduated from the LLU School of Medicine in 1998 and was a pediatrician practicing in Elk Grove, California.

Their children—Sydney (age 9) and Christopher (age 7)—were with them.

Ellison "Bud" St. Clair Summerfield, pilot of the aircraft, also lost his life in the accident.

An Air Force pilot during the Vietnam War, Mr. Summerfield

had flown air-ambulance planes in Arizona and had 2,000 hours of flight experience on the Pilatus aircraft which crashed.

In addition to their connections to Loma Linda University, the three families who died had close relatives in the Loma Linda area.

Irving M. "Bud" Feldkamp III, DDS, LLUSD'71, was father of Vanessa Pullen and Amy Jacobson, and grandfather to five of the children aboard the aircraft. His wife and their mother, Pam Feldkamp, graduated from the LLU School of Dentistry's dental hygiene program in 1969.

Erin Jacobson, MD, was brother to Paul Jacobson, MD, neuroradiologist at Loma Linda University Medical Center and a member of the LLU School of Medicine faculty.

He was son of John Jacobson, MD, former cardiac surgeon at LLUMC, and Judy Rick Jacobson, a 1967 graduate of the LLU School of Dentistry dental hygiene program, as well as a nephew of Alan Jacobson, director of research at the Veterans Administration Loma

Linda Healthcare System.

Brent Ching, DDS, was the nephew of Victor Ching, MD, a urologist for the Veterans Administration Loma Linda Healthcare System.

"Words cannot express the sadness we feel for our colleagues who are family members and friends of those who lost their lives," says Roger Hadley, MD, dean of the LLU School of Medicine. "Our prayer is that our Lord will give us a special measure of His mercy as we share the deep sadness of this loss, and as we reach out in love to embrace those who are grieving."

A Feldkamp family statement said: "There are no words to describe the heartbreak of losing two daughters, two sons, and five precious grandchildren."

Information regarding tributes, memorial services, and donations in their memory is available at <<http://ncc.adventist.org/article.php?id=747>>.



From left, Brent Ching, LLUSD'98; Caleb Ching, age 3; Hailey Ching, age 5; and Kristen Mautz Ching, LLUSN'00, are pictured in a family photo.



Pictured from left (back) are Vanessa Feldkamp Pullen, LLUSM'98; Michael Pullen, LLUSD'99; and their children (front, from left)—Sydney, age 9, and Christopher, age 7.



The Jacobson family, including (from left, back) Erin Jacobson, LLUSM'00; Amy Feldkamp Jacobson, LLUSD'97; and their children (front, from left) Jude, age 2; Taylor, age 4; and Ava, age 3, are shown in this family photo.



## Final Innovating Excellence program rolled out...

*Continued from page 1*

begin feeling like a diagnosis or a problem. High-touch treatment changes that. In a very real way, then, health care providers can be the hands of Jesus to heal a hurting world." He concluded the ceremony with a prayer of blessing. Guests were then dismissed to the patio for refreshments.

Because IE is so far-reaching in

scope, the staff of performance improvement put together a 30-page booklet distilling the 2,000 individual elements of the program into a handy reference form. The booklet—which was produced in concert with consultant Myra Mengwasser of Noblis, a nonprofit science, technology, and strategy organization that helps clients solve complex systems, process, and

infrastructure problems in ways that benefit the public—underscores the values, key messages, and designs of IE for interested readers.

Individuals interested in obtaining a copy may contact Yolanda Arroyo, coordinator of performance improvement, at (909) 558-4000, extension 33782.

Ms. Arroyo notes that the final rollout signals the beginning of a new era of the Innovating Excellence process at LLUMC, and says she is extremely pleased with the level of staff participation in the program. She also admits that, in a way, IE is personal for her.

"Innovating Excellence has become part of me," Ms. Arroyo observes. "From August 2006 when we first began this journey, until the last unit was declared live March 31, 2009, I couldn't be more proud of every employee who stood and pro-



Randy Roberts, DMin, senior pastor of the Loma Linda University Church, addressed a standing-room-only crowd at the Innovating Excellence rollout on unit 3700, the NICU, by calling for health care practitioners in today's world to combine Christ's emphasis on the personal healing touch with contemporary medical technology.

claimed, 'We can never stop striving for excellence.' I am honored to be a part of LLUMC as we push toward that mark of having patients automatically say, 'If I must be in a hos-

pital, it can only be LLUMC.'

"We must keep our patients as satisfied with our services as they are loyal," she noted. "With Innovating Excellence, we will!"



Just some of the large crowd attending the Innovating Excellence rollout on unit 3700; the room was packed and guests spilled out into adjacent hallways. The March 31, 2009, event brings to a successful conclusion the era of IE rollouts. Next up? Continuing performance appraisals and analysis to make sure it fulfills its objectives of maintaining patient loyalty and increasing patient satisfaction ratings.

## Tenth annual nursing research conference spotlights transforming practice through research

BY JAMES PONDER

"Transforming your practice through research" is the theme for the 10th annual nursing research conference, which will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, in the Wong Kerlee International Conference Center on the campus of Loma Linda University.

The conference—which is jointly sponsored by the Loma Linda University Medical Center department of nursing, the LLU School of Nursing, and the Gamma Alpha chapter of the nursing honor society Sigma Theta Tau International—will spotlight the vital contributions of nursing research in both academic and clinical environments.

Marita Titler, PhD, associate dean of practice and clinical scholarship development at the University of Michigan School of Nursing, will deliver the keynote address at the conference.

According to Patti Radovich, MS, CNS, manager for nursing research at LLUMC and coordinator of the conference, Dr. Titler is an internationally recognized expert

in health services research, translational science, and evidence-based practice.

"Nursing research not only increases our scientific knowledge," Ms. Radovich says, "but is also an important component in the improvement of patient care."

In addition to featuring the nursing research process at Loma Linda University Medical Center, the 10th annual conference will focus on nursing research at Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital in Hangzhou, China, and Loma Linda cardiology services, and will feature a discussion of evidence-based practice change in the LLUMC emergency department.

A total of 3.5 continuing education credits are available to attendees. The conference is free for LLUMC nurses or faculty and students of the LLU School of Nursing; LLUAHSC and AHS employees will be charged \$60 each; all others will be assessed a fee of \$80 if registered prior to April 25, 2009.

Registration is available from the LLUMC office of staff development at (909) 558-3500.

## Dental faculty member appointed as vice president of child protection advocacy group

BY DOUG HACKLEMAN, MA

Margie Arnett, MS, assistant professor, LLU School of Dentistry, was elected to serve as vice president of the San Bernardino Court Appointed Child Advocates (CASA), a national non-profit organization that is committed to the protection of abused, neglected, and exploited children, and to the

provision of advocacy services to those children who are under the jurisdiction of the San Bernardino County Juvenile Court system.

Founded in 1984 at the urging of Juvenile Court Judges, CASA trains volunteers to advocate for approximately 5,400 children and youth living in San Bernardino County foster care facilities.

## MoraVision 3-D System given test-run at LLUSD

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Assad F. Mora, DDS, board-certified prosthodontist and inventor of the MoraVision 3-D System, graciously loaned the School of Dentistry a complete unit for use in the graduate prosthodontics clinic and the implant dentistry clinics.

Using a digital stereoscopic microscope with two large flat-screen LCD monitors and special glasses, dentists and their dental assistants can view images in 3-D at various levels of magnification. A convenient foot control allows the dentist to adjust the magnification viewing level from 1x to 30x.

The system is designed to allow dentists to function more ergonomically by sitting upright and viewing their patient straight ahead on a large monitor. Rather than viewing the patient's mouth directly, dentists and dental assistants rely on images from their respective flat-screen monitors. With MoraVision providers have no need to lean over their patients or look downward for extended periods of time. Such an ergonomic arrangement is novel, as is the idea of operating on a patient using the 3-D video images rather than direct visualization.

Dr. Mora initially set up a complete system in one of the clinic operatories of the advanced education program in prosthodontics. He then familiarized a number of LLUSD faculty with his system, providing instruction to School of Dentistry dean Charles Goodacre, DDS, MSD; Douglass Roberts, DDS; Patrick Naylor, DDS; Mathew Kattadiyil, DDS; Jaime Lozada, DDS; Jeff Henkin, DDS; and Joe Caruso, DDS.

The equipment was then moved to an operating room in the Implant Dentistry Graduate Clinic. Under Dr. Mora's tutelage, Dr. Lozada familiarized himself with the operation of the system, underwent training with Dr. Mora, and then used the system for a number of implant surgeries.

After using the MoraVision 3-D System, Dr. Lozada remarked,

"The MoraVision 3-D system has allowed me to see in a surgical site the details that I have never had the opportunity to recognize in the past. As an example, I extracted an endodontically compromised tooth in position 8 using conventional non-traumatic techniques and without raising flaps."

Dr. Lozada added, "The original plan was to immediately insert an implant. Upon evaluation of the extraction site a small fenestration in the bone was noted that otherwise would have been extremely difficult to detect without the aid of the level of magnification provided by this system."

Dr. Lozada took advantage of the magnification capabilities and large viewing monitors to provide step-by-step analysis of the surgical cases for the benefit of his graduate students, fellows, and interns. The large flat-screen monitors and 30x

magnification allowed Dr. Lozada to present images not readily available to observers during a typical implant surgery.

After completing one of his surgical cases, Dr. Lozada remarked, "Raising the flap and exposing the alveolus allowed me then to demonstrate to all of our students in 3-D the challenges of maintaining thin buccal plates intact and the deficiencies in the thorough cleaning of an alveolus."

Dr. Lozada added, "The experience of visualizing in 3-D a recent extraction site in preparation for implant placement was truly a good learning experience for me and our students."

The School appreciates the unique opportunity Dr. Mora has made available to graduate students and residents to see firsthand the value of 3-D imaging at various levels of magnification.



Dean Charles Goodacre, DDS, MSD (right), tries the MoraVision 3-D System, observed by (from left) faculty member Amir Khatami, DDS, and graduate students Souren Rostomian, Mehrdad Fay, and James Ywom.



Assisted by Dr. Mora (standing), Jaime Lozada, DDS (right), uses 3-D stereoscopic magnification to view on a 37-inch flat screen monitor the procedure he is performing.



## How Miguel got a new lease on life for the second time in six years

BY JAMES PONDER

The story of how 18-year-old Miguel Miranda of Chino got a new lease on life for the second time in six years highlights the emotionally demanding journey of patients and families waiting for an organ transplant, and focuses attention on

the kindness of altruistic donors who voluntarily give one of their own kidneys so someone they don't even know can live.

Miguel feels doubly blessed; not only did he get a new kidney, but he also got to meet the woman whose generosity is saving his life. And

judging from the smiles she sent his way when the two recently met at Loma Linda University Medical Center, it's probably not too much of a stretch to say that Michelle Vert, his donor, is one of Miguel's most supportive fans.

Ms. Vert considers herself "a car girl." She works as a driver for an auto parts store in Riverside and spends her days delivering engines, carburetors, and assorted automotive paraphernalia to mechanics. The fact that she's also one of the most unselfish people alive can be inferred from what she did—why else would Michelle voluntarily subject herself to the pain, trauma, and inconvenience of major surgery to save the life of someone she didn't even know?

Shortly after he was born, Miguel was diagnosed with a congenital disorder known as bilateral kidney hypoplasia. Both his kidneys were underdeveloped and contained fewer than the usual number of filtering elements.

As a result, he tired easily. His mother, Elizabeth Miranda, estimates that Miguel slept an average of 15 to 16 hours a day, year after year. Under those circumstances,

he found it impossible to attend school, so Ms. Miranda home-schooled him.

The family became very excited in 2003 when they learned that a donor kidney had been found for Miguel. After years of waiting, it seemed hope had finally arrived. Unfortunately, however, his body rejected the organ a few months after it was implanted into him.

"As a mom, I think post-trans-

plant surgeries had a lot to do with his rejection of the first donor kidney," Ms. Miranda observes. "He was very stressed and in a lot of pain from back surgery. It took a real toll on him. He developed scoliosis and had a rod inserted into his spine. He was in the hospital recovering for 35 days and developed post-traumatic stress disorder from the pain."

Hundreds of patients await organ transplants every year, and

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The smiles on the faces of Miguel Miranda (front row), his mother Elizabeth (left), and Michelle Vert (right) say it all as they pose for a photo next to the new "Come unto Me" sculpture in front of Loma Linda University Medical Center. Ms. Vert gave one of her kidneys so that Miguel might experience a better quality of life. The story of her selfless sacrifice spotlights the agony and triumph faced by transplant recipients and their families while waiting for an organ. The story has a happy ending: Miguel says he's feeling better than ever.

## Dental students achieve academic excellence on boards

BY DOUG HACKLEMAN, MA

The following list of fourth-year dental students achieved Academic Excellence Awards for their scores on National Board Part II examination.

The award is based on a score that is one standard deviation above the national mean.

The Gold Award is reserved for those who exceeded the national

mean on both National Board Part I and Part II.

### *Academic Excellence Gold Award*

Carl Appleton  
Jonathan Channer  
Vincent Drouin  
Benjamin Emery  
Shaun Flynn  
Nolan Korando

Parisa Pejman-Zadeh  
Ivan Rees  
Leslie Scott Seaman  
Dennis Simental  
Margaret Soh  
Jasper Yai

### *Academic Excellence Silver Award*

Dennis Iverson  
Christopher Wood

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Dental Student – Loma Linda University

**Presented by  
Shirani de-Alwis Chand, Ed.D.**

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**Dates: May 15, 17, 29, & 31, 2009**

**Times: Fri. 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Sun. 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.**



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## Spiritual Care Workshop held

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

If, while sitting down into a dental chair, a dental patient said, "I have such a pain in my chest and my left arm feels numb!" a dental professional would suddenly be much less interested in the dentistry that was planned and address the patient's more immediate need.

The dentist or hygienist would do this even though they lack the training to deal definitively with a heart attack.

Dental professionals know that they are responsible for the whole person and that they would never be able to defend ignoring such potentially critical symptoms.

How is it, then, that a dental professional might feel justified in not addressing a patient's need when he or she says, "It was one year ago this week that my son died," or, "I just don't know how to deal with this ongoing discouragement and sadness," or, "It seems pretty unlikely to me that people just randomly developed from some glop on the shore of a prehistoric lake somewhere. What do you think?"

Even though they may not be trained to deal definitively with the spiritual aspects of their patients' lives, they are responsible for the whole person; and like the emergency room, to which they can refer a patient with chest pain, there are resources available to assist in caring for these hurting folks.

In addition, dental professionals who have all dealt with their own spiritual needs may be a spiritual resource themselves.

Some of the difficulties that health professionals have, when faced with spiritual injuries, are

that these kinds of problems are often considered too personal or out of one's zone of responsibility. Dental professionals also may feel unprepared to deal effectively with people suffering this kind of hurt.

To address these deficits in one's ability to help patients, the Center for Spiritual Life & Wholeness sponsored its second annual Spiritual Care Workshop on January 30 and 31, 2009.

The event attracted nearly 100 participants to the campus cafeteria Friday night to hear Ron Carter, PhD, LLU provost, talk about spiritual health from his perspective. On Sabbath morning Wilbur Alexander, PhD, Harvey Elder, MD, and others addressed the group.

Following lunch, groups were formed around common interests and professions for more personalized and focused involvement.

The dental and dental hygiene groups assembled in the dental school clinic where several faculty members, practicing dentists, and their wives used role-playing, personal practice experiences, and discussion with students to talk about a number of opportunities to participate with patients and staff in spiritual and personal journeys.

Afterwards, one student said, "I was blessed by the role-playing, the helpful stories, and perspectives of the experienced dentists who met with us in the afternoon."

More such events will be planned. Watch for announcements and plan now to learn about improving one's ability to fearlessly, kindly, and appropriately employ these urgently needed skills and knowledge. The rewards and joys are enormous.

## Dentistry professor revises metal-ceramic technology textbook

BY DOUG HACKLEMAN, MA

In January 2009, the Quintessence Publishing Company (Chicago) released an extensively revised second edition of the textbook on metal-ceramic technology, titled *Introduction to Metal-Ceramic Technology* (hardcover, 224 pp.), written by W. Patrick Naylor, DDS. Dr. Naylor is associate dean for advanced dental education and a faculty member in the advance education program in prosthodontics in the LLU School of Dentistry.

Written "specifically for dental technology students, dental stu-

dents, and graduate students," Dr. Naylor's beautifully illustrated text provides introductory level, skill-oriented technical information on the processes involved in fabricating this very popular type of restoration.

According to Dr. Naylor, readers will appreciate the evidence-based text, updated photographs, and new illustrations, along with the brief synopses of selected journal articles now at the end of each chapter. Also noteworthy is the expanded dental materials content that now includes an added section on biocompatibility.



## How Miguel got a new lease on life for the second time...

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when a patient rejects one organ, it means he or she must start the process of awaiting a donor organ all over again. But since kidney hyperplasia is potentially life-threatening, Miguel's family could only hope and pray another donor would be found in time. As it

turned out, they would have to wait six more long years.

When Ms. Vert first learned that there are many children in desperate need of kidneys, she made up her mind to donate one of her own to save the life of an anonymous child. The fact that she might never get to meet the person who

would likely die without her selfless act did not dampen her enthusiasm in the least. Even so, the process was not without complications.

"It took about a year and a half until I finally got into surgery," she recalls. "I was all ready for the surgery, I had my pre-op doctor's appointment, and all the tests, and

it looked like everything was ready to go. But they dropped me from eligibility once they found out I was going through a marital separation."

Ron Duvall, a transplant coordinator at the Transplant Institute, explains why Ms. Vert's kidney donation was placed on temporary hold after she mentioned her marital difficulties.

"The concern of the selection

committee was that Michelle may not have been in the best place emotionally to make such a big decision," he details. "We have as much concern for the wellbeing of the donor as we have for the recipient, and that includes assessing psychosocial factors as well as physical."

A year later, Ms. Vert received a phone call from the transplant

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## Report from the LLUAHSC, LLU, and LLUMC Boards of Trustees

### Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center

The Boards of Trustees of Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center, Loma Linda University, and Loma Linda University Medical Center, as well as the Operating Board members of Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center, gathered for a retreat in Fallbrook, California, February 20-23, 2009. The retreat provided a special opportunity for spiritual reflection, social interaction, and consideration of matters that affect the multi-faceted programs on the campus at Loma Linda. Special features included stories from the NICU, exciting opportunities in Niger, community partnership experiences, information about rattlesnakes by Sean Bush, MD, and a presentation on research by Martin Philbert, PhD, senior associate dean for research at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

The majority of the Board retreat educational time was spent discussing and defining the LLUAHSC strategic plan. Facilitators John Abendshien and Mayur Patel assisted with this process, along with Michael Jackson, MPH, MBA, senior vice president for strategic planning.

The Board members particularly focused on five core goals which had been identified in extensive interviews with individuals on campus. The goals are as follows:

- World-class distinction in our unique roles
- Quality and service excellence in all that we do
- Teamwork and synergy to leverage our strengths
- Partnership with local and global communities
- Leadership and stewardship for our future

At the end of the session, the LLUAHSC Board voted to approve the five core goals for LLUAHSC strategic planning. The LLUAHSC strategic plan will serve as a guiding framework so that the respective entities on campus can build on the LLUAHSC mission, vision, values, and goal foundation to develop their strategic plans. During February and March the process design and roll-out will take place. Discovery and formulation phases will occur from April to September, with action plans being approved in December.

The Boards of Trustees for LLUAHSC, LLU, and LLUMC approved a new position of vice president for institutes. The vice

president for institutes will have oversight for all institutes, formulating policies, guidelines, and membership. An institute advisory group will be created, which will meet two to four times per year to review progress on established institute goals. This position is not considered to be full-time. It was voted to appoint Mark Reeves, MD, director of the Cancer Center, as the new vice president for institutes. Dr. Reeves will continue in his role in the Cancer Center.

### Loma Linda University

The Board received a report on the revised LLU organizational structure with the provost's role especially highlighted. Because the revised structure requires some bylaw changes, the Board voted to call a member meeting in May to approve the bylaw revisions.

Patrick J. Morris, mayor of San Bernardino, was approved to receive an honorary doctorate from Loma Linda University at the time of the conferral of degrees for the School of Public Health on June 14, 2009. Prior to becoming mayor, Mr. Morris had a distinguished career as judge in the Superior Court system. He established one of the nation's first mental health courts to treat the seriously mentally ill caught up in the criminal justice system. Further, Mayor Morris is the founder of the San Bernardino County Children's Network.

The Board of Trustees approved the following academic administrative appointments:

- Richard D. Catalano, MD, head, trauma division, department of general and trauma surgery, School of Medicine
- James M. Pappas, MD, associate dean for quality and patient safety, School of Medicine
- M. Daniel Wongworawat, MD, assistant dean of career advisement, School of Medicine

The School of Pharmacy has just been awarded full, continued accreditation status. Successful accreditation visits have just been completed for the School of Dentistry and the department of social work. The School of Medicine will have an interim site visit in July 2009. The first two stages of a three-stage process for WASC accreditation have been successfully completed. The final site visit (Educational Effectiveness Review) is scheduled for one year from now.

The Board of Trustees approved the establishment of a

new associate in science in medical radiography program in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. This program is based in the School of Allied Health Professions.

Rick Williams, PhD, vice president for enrollment management and student services, presented the Board with a report on admissions. The report included admissions trends, selectivity, age range of students, ethnicities, states from which students come, and religious affiliation. It was noted that the School of Allied Health Professions is the largest school with 23 percent of the student body.

### Loma Linda University Medical Center

Jesse Mock, administrator for the Heart & Surgical Hospital, presented an update on the new hospital. Since its opening January 6, 2009, there have been 210 surgical cases (133 inpatient cases and 77

outpatient cases), 50 percent operating room utilization, massage therapy for the inpatients, room service, and chaplain services. There is early feedback that the patient engagement scores are positive. There is high faculty and community physician support and interest in the new facility. The active service lines at the Heart & Surgical Hospital are gynecology; ear, nose, and throat; urology; general surgery; and vascular. Mr. Mock also shared the daily census and the payor mix for January 2009.

Michael Jackson, MPH, MBA, senior vice president for strategic planning, gave an overview of the 2009 strategic plan that included an update on the four pillars: service excellence, clinical leadership, regional outreach, and world-class resources.

Steve Mohr, CPA, senior vice president for finance, presented the December 2008 and the January

2009 financials. December 2008 showed a decline in net assets due to a number of factors including valuation charges on LLUMC's interest rate swap agreements, unrealized losses on investments, higher than budgeted benefit expenses, and significant year-end inventory adjustments. This was partially offset by stronger than budgeted net patient revenue and disproportionate share for hospitals revenue from the state of California for the month, as well as positive adjustments to year-end accounts receivables estimates and cost report receivables. Net days cash on hand, which excludes line of credit borrowings, was 71 days at the end of the year compared to the bond insurance requirement of 60 days.

January 2009 showed an increase in net assets primarily due to positive valuation adjustments to LLUMC's interest rate swap agree-

*Please turn to page 7*

## PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK April 6th - 12th



## Lunch & Movie

Nichol Hall 1610  
Tuesday, April 7th  
12:00 pm

Students  
Teaching  
AIDS to  
Students



## Kenyan student talks about medical product donations in Kenya



Solomon Ogutu Otieno discusses a Loma Linda University project that studied medical product donations in his home of Kenya. Mr. Otieno made the presentation at the Annual PQMD Education Conference in Atlanta in February. He was one of seven students from the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, to survey Kenya's eight provinces. Mr. Otieno spearheaded the entry of the resulting data and integration of the datasets. He also analyzed the results along with Seth Wiafe, MPH, director of LLU's health geoinformatics program. Kenya relies on medical product donations to address problems such as unsafe drinking water, HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other parasitic and infectious diseases. Each year, a nonprofit organization called the Partnership for Quality Medical Donations offers a fellowship program allowing students in other countries to work with Loma Linda University to study medical product donations and make recommendations for improved efficacy. Prior to Kenya, the nation of Ghana was surveyed.

## Dental continuing education hosts dentists from Spain

By DOUG HACKLEMAN, MA

During the week of March 23–27, nearly 30 dentists from Spain participated in case presentations, listened to lectures, and observed live surgeries at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry—all part of a sister relationship the School maintains with Barcelona Escuela Superior

de Implantologia, in which students from the Spanish advanced-education program directed by Sergio Cacciaccane, DDS, visit Loma Linda University one week each year.

Jaime Lozada, DDS, directed the training that included lectures by Joseph Kan, DDS, and Juan Mesqueda, DDS.



Jaime Lozada, DDS (second from right), stands with dentists from the Spanish advanced education program.

## How Miguel got a new lease on life for the second time...

Continued from page 4

institute asking if she still wanted to be a donor. The answer, of course, was yes.

The nurse explained that a year was adequate time for Ms. Vert's body to "de-stress," and that she could now be put back on the donor approval list. That was fine with her.

"I didn't know you had gone through all that," Ms. Miranda observes, hearing the story for the first time.

Once Ms. Vert was told she was good to go, the search began for a suitable recipient. That's when she encountered another unexpected hitch in the works.

"All of a sudden," she remembers, "there were no compatible pediatric patients on the list."

There was, she was later told, an 18-year-old boy who needed a kidney, but since she had specified a child, the staff of the Transplant Institute was reluctant to suggest Miguel.

When they did, however, Ms. Vert responded positively. A short time later, the phone rang at the Miranda home.

"Actually, it rang three times," Miguel explains. "I was asleep when it rang. It was Loma Linda calling. The lady on the line said, 'I have some good news. I have someone who wants to donate a kidney to you.'"

Miguel could hardly believe the news. "My sister Megan walked in," he recalls, "and I passed her the phone. She started crying. She called my mom and said, 'Mom, they found a kidney for Miguel!' Mom said, 'This better not be a joke!' Then I called my brother Alex, my sister Amanda, and my dad, Martin."

Ms. Vert was disappointed when she learned she probably wouldn't be able to meet the recipient whose life her kidney would save.

"At first, they said I couldn't know him," she recalls. "Then they asked if I wanted them to talk to his family and ask if it would be OK for me to meet him. We met on the Wednesday before his surgery on Monday morning."

The Monday in question, February 23, would either turn out to be the best day of Miguel's life—the day that would throw open a

new world where he could finally do all the things he had always wanted to do—or else the biggest disappointment of all. There was always the chance his body might reject Ms. Vert's kidney like it had the other one.

"There was lots of pain the first few days after the surgery," Ms. Vert remembers, "but it all went away two weeks after the operation. I'll probably go back to work in a month. They let me go home three

days after the surgery."

Miguel has never been better. "I feel great!" he reports.

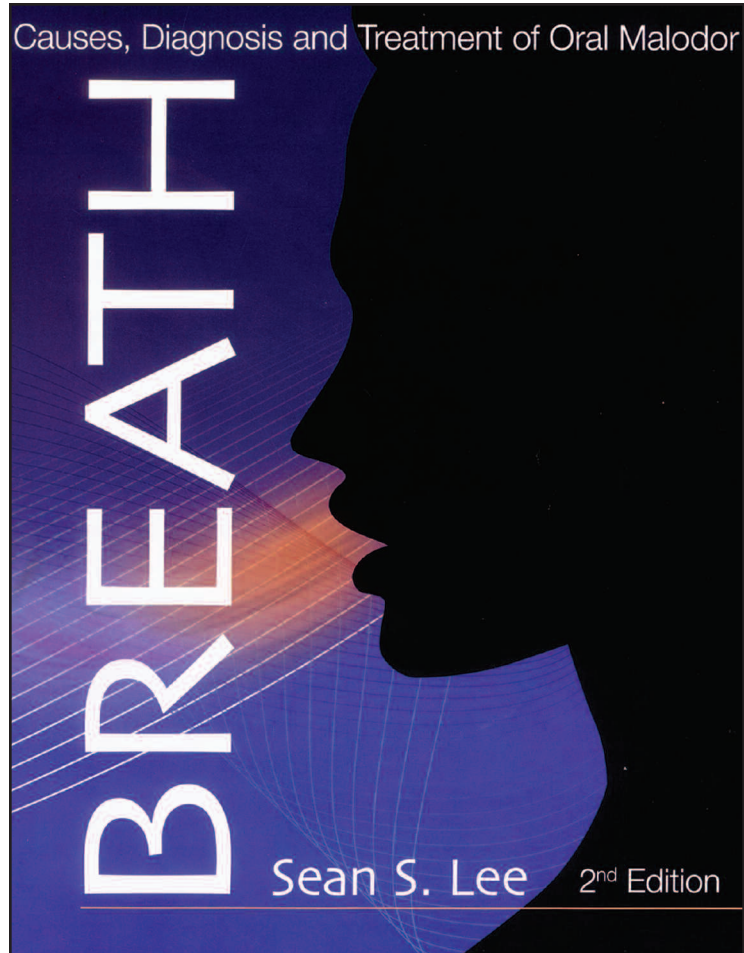
"He's been sick for so many years that this is just like a rebirth for him," Ms. Miranda beams. "He told one of his doctors he knew the kidney was working because he couldn't sleep 16 hours anymore. He's always telling me, 'Mom, I can't sleep all the time any more.'"

"He's like a brand new person,"

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(From left) Elizabeth Miranda is thrilled her son is doing so well following a successful kidney transplant. Miguel's got a whole new world to look forward to, and Michelle Vert (right) is delighted her gift of a kidney paved the way for him to enjoy a long and healthy future.



## Dental professor publishes book on halitosis

By DOUG HACKLEMAN, MA

Sean S. Lee, DDS, associate professor of restorative dentistry and director of clinical research at the Center for Dental Research, has just published a book about that well-known condition, halitosis, titled *Breath: Causes, Diagnosis and Treatment of Oral Malodor*, (168 pages; available at <www.culminare.org>).

*Breath: Causes, Diagnosis and Treatment of Oral Malodor* succinctly reviews all that is known about oral malodor—from the 19th century to the present day—including causes and cures. Dr. Lee's up-to-date research explains the etiology of oral

malodor, various diagnostic methods, and the essentials of treatment.

With more than 60 useful figures, tables, and clinical photographs; readily retrievable clinical forms; a review of herbal treatment; a concluding chapter that scans future directions and research perspectives; and appendices that include a decision-making flow chart and tongue coating index practice sheets, *Breath: Causes, Diagnosis and Treatment of Oral Malodor* is an ideal resource for dentists, hygienists, physicians, health practitioners, and researchers alike that will satisfy the needs of clinicians in daily patient care.

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## Alpha Omega Alpha annual banquet recognizes and honors medical students, faculty, and staff

BY JAMES PONDER

A group of 29 students, faculty, and house staff affiliated with the Loma Linda University School of Medicine were inducted into membership in the Epsilon chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha, the medical honor society, at the society's annual banquet, held in Wong Kerlee International Conference Center the evening of March 16, 2009.

Following the event, H. Roger Hadley, MD, dean of the School of Medicine, praised the new members for their dedication and commitment.

"The students honored tonight represent not only remarkable self-discipline and enthusiasm about their chosen profession," Dr. Hadley noted, "but also the requisite compassion of the consummate professional."

The new members include the following individuals:

### Class of 2009

Shelley Caltharp  
Chansa Cha  
Danielle Chan  
Eric Chow  
Kimberley Conley  
Michael Davis  
Michelle Donton  
Lisal Stevens Folsom  
Heidi Forberg

Matthew Hiersche  
Matthew Higgins  
Ryan Hsi  
Sarah Korando  
LaVonne Meadows  
Patrick Moon  
Steven Munson  
Bjorn Peterson  
Daniel Poon  
Michael Plunkett  
Amber Sabbatini  
Jessica Murray Sutton  
Daniel Torres  
Zachary VandeGriend  
Aaron Wagner  
Benjamin Winarko  
Olivia Chen Winarko

### Faculty

David Bland, MD

### House staff

Joseph Bowen, MD  
Chad Harbour, MD

According to Alpha Omega Alpha's website, the organization was founded in 1902 by William Webster Root and a handful of colleagues from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Chicago.

By advocating the highest ideals of scholastic achievement and ethical conduct, the society encourages members to aspire to the highest levels of excellence in the practice of medicine.

Membership in AOA is considered one of the highest privileges offered to the nation's medical students, faculty members, and staff.



It's high-wattage smiles all around as 26 members of the LLU School of Medicine class of 2009 celebrate their induction into the Epsilon chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society. The group was initiated into the society on Wednesday, March 16, 2009.

## Stanley Lillard named director of dental maintenance

BY DOUG HACKLEMAN, MA

By the age of 19, Stanley Lillard was a licensed paint contractor in Orange County, California.

He continued in that occupation for eight years before joining his brother in a dental equipment repair business in San Bernardino.

When regulations regarding dental equipment autoclaving drew thousands of entrepreneurs to the field, Mr. Lillard joined the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in 1994 as an equipment technician.

During his 14 years in the dental maintenance department, Mr. Lillard has advanced from technician to foreman to acting director and, since March 1, director of dental maintenance.

Those who spend any time with him know that beyond the necessary competence, he brings a certain flair and good humor to his very essential professionalism.

Mr. Lillard's life is enhanced by his wife, Joanne, a pharmacy technology supervisor, and his two children: Amber, 15; and Joshua, 7.



Stanley Lillard

## Oral/maxillofacial surgery faculty attend Dental Society of Anesthesiology meetings

BY DOUG HACKLEMAN, MA

Six members of the oral/maxillofacial surgery department

attended the March 18, 2009, scientific meetings of the California Dental Society of

Anesthesiology in Costa Mesa, California.

The morning session, titled "Precautions and Pitfalls in the Cockpit and in the OR," featured a husband-wife presentation team—Captain Carlyle "Jai" Rampersad, a senior airline pilot, and Sally Rampersad, a pediatric anesthesiologist.

The couple discussed the similarly grave responsibilities of their different professions and the lessons to be learned from both.

The afternoon speaker, Susheela Bala, MD, an allergist-immunologist, provided an excellent review of pharmacology, asthma, and allergic reactions as they pertain to anesthesia.



Albert Hummel, CEO of Cobrek Pharmaceuticals, delivers the final address to a crowd estimated at between 65 to 70 individuals gathered for the Community Partners Appreciation Dinner, sponsored by the LLUMC department of radiation medicine. The event honors those who provide local housing for out-of-area patients at the James M. Slater, MD, Proton Treatment and Research Center.



Charlie Doherty strums and sings an Irish ditty appropriate to St. Patrick's Day at the LLUMC department of radiation medicine's Community Partners Appreciation Dinner. Mr. Doherty left no doubt regarding his credentials for performing authentic music of the Green Isle: Bold letters emblazoned across his shirt—but obscured behind his autoharp in the photo—proclaimed his Irish ethnicity.

## Community Partners Appreciation Dinner recognizes friends of proton patients

BY JAMES PONDER

A crowd estimated at 65 to 70 people gathered in Wong Kerlee International Conference Center the evening of St. Patrick's Day, Tuesday, March 17, 2009, to celebrate the contributions of Loma Linda University Medical Center's community partners—individuals who provide temporary housing to out-of-area patients who visit Loma Linda to receive therapy at the James M. Slater, MD, Proton Treatment and Research Center.

The evening began at 6:00 p.m. when members of the LLUMC department of radiation medicine staff escorted the community partners on a tour of the proton center. At 7:00 p.m., the group reconvened in the Peterson Auditorium at Wong Kerlee for dinner.

After a welcome by J. Lynn Martell, DMin, director of special services, radiation medicine, the group settled into the serious business of eating dinner, which consisted of a selection of Italian entrees, vegetables, bread, and salad. At the conclusion of the meal, participants watched a video presentation in which "Today" show correspondent George Lewis described his experiences as a patient at the Slater Center. When hosts Matt Lauer and Meredith Vieira asked "why proton therapy instead of surgery?" and "why Loma Linda?" Mr. Lewis explained that despite recent advances in the surgical treatment of prostate cancer, he felt there was a "slight edge" to the proton treatment program at LLUMC when weighed against the side effects.

In keeping with the spirit of St. Patrick's Day, Charlie Doherty—a retired Irish-American schoolteacher from the Los Angeles area—recited witty Irish stories and played a pair of high-spirited tunes on his autoharp. To delete any doubt concerning his ethnicity, Mr. Doherty sported a beige shirt

with the word "Irish" emblazoned across the lapel in bright green letters. Mr. Doherty played the violin during his undergraduate days at the University of Notre Dame, but after an attack of rheumatoid arthritis 15 years ago forced him to stop playing that instrument, he turned to the autoharp—technically known as the chorded zither—for musical expression. His wife, Pat, wore an emerald blouse in honor of the occasion.

After the entertainment, Yolanda "Yoly" Magana, RN, MBA, service line director for the department of radiation medicine, presented an overview of the services offered by the department. In her informal and informative lecture, which was liberally illustrated with photos, graphs, and charts, Ms. Magana emphasized other services the department offers to patients above and beyond the well-known proton treatment. Ms. Magana noted the crucial role community partners play in helping to make proton therapy a reality for many out-of-town patients.

"We want to express our appreciation to each of you for partnering with us," she said. "Some of you have been doing it for more than 12 years. Our patients travel from across the country and from around the world to be treated for cancer. It is an extremely stressful time in their lives. You are providing a 'home away from home' for them. It helps immeasurably in providing an atmosphere for them to have a good patient experience. Thank you for making a difference in their lives."

Following Ms. Magana's remarks, Baldev Patyal, PhD, associate professor of radiation medicine at the LLU School of Medicine, and chief physicist at the Slater Center, took the stage to discuss the role of proton therapy in treating a variety of diseases, and

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LLUSD attendees included (from left): Alanna Wilkinson, receptionist; Ken Spint, DMD, attending; Carlos Moretta, DDS, chief resident; and Zolton Horvath, OMS clinic manager. Also attending but not pictured were: Adam Clark, DDS, chief resident, and Wayne Tanaka, DDS, attending.



## Keep Me Safe parenting conference highlights Child Abuse Prevention Month

By JAMES PONDER

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Even though most people hate to even think about child abuse, Janet Koh, MPH, says everyone can help prevent it and make a positive difference in the lives of at-risk children by keeping eyes open and learning a few interventionary techniques.

Ms. Koh, program specialist at the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital's child abuse prevention program, says the purpose of National Child Abuse Prevention Month is "to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and encourage individuals and communities to support children and families."

She invites interested parties—and especially young or inexperienced parents with infants or young children—to attend the 3rd annual Keep Me Safe parenting conference on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, in Wong Kerlee International Con-

ference Center located inside the Coleman Pavilion on the campus of Loma Linda University. There is no charge for the half-day event, which is geared toward helping parents learn to cope with situations that sometimes trigger child abuse, as well as offering tips on preventing other preventable causes of death or injury. Registration is at 7:30 a.m.

"The inability to cope with crying is the number one trigger for shaken baby syndrome," Ms. Koh reports. "At the conference, we will present information on coping with crying, better parenting skills, and how to reduce children's exposure to violence. In addition to shaken baby syndrome prevention, we'll also share ideas for how to prevent other causes of childhood injury and death such as drowning, roll-overs, poisoning, and other acts of carelessness and neglect. We'll also discuss car seat safety for children. Our goal is to decrease the prevalence of child abuse in San

Bernardino County."

In 2007 alone, approximately 37,000 cases of suspected child abuse were reported in San Bernardino County, and 12 infants died at LLU Children's Hospital from abuse by their caretakers that same year. Fortunately, that number dropped to seven deaths in 2008, but the loss of even one infant is an incalculable tragedy!

Can child abuse really be prevented? Ms. Koh insists that it can. She says the key is for everyone to keep their eyes and hearts open, and to report child abuse if they even suspect it might be going on.

Ms. Koh isn't trying to create a climate of paranoia, but she says people need to be alert to the symptoms of child abuse—things like bruises or cigarette burns on hands, arms, or faces; or slapping, threatening, or explosive physical or emotional badgering of children by a parent or caregiver—everywhere they go. Even the smallest ear bruise can be a sign of serious brain injury.

What to do if you see something suspicious? Ms. Koh offers



Marcia Arnold-Bernard, MSN, RN, FNP (left), pediatric forensic nurse practitioner, and Janet Koh, MPH, program specialist, say that preventing child abuse is everybody's business. As members of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital's child protection team, Ms. Arnold-Bernard and Ms. Koh help parents find positive, proactive ways to deal with the stress of raising children. They invite parents and grandparents to attend the third annual Keep Me Safe parenting conference on Tuesday, April 14, in Wong Kerlee International Conference Center. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

the following suggestions, adapted from the recommendations of an organization called Prevent Child Abuse America, as examples of what ordinary citizens can do to prevent child abuse if they encounter it.

Let's say one is walking through the store, the post office, or another other public place, and he or she sees something that might indicate that child abuse is taking place, or has taken place in the past. Should one intervene, walk away and pretend he or she doesn't see it, or confront the abuser?

Ms. Koh recommends starting a conversation with the offending adult for two reasons: First, it will direct attention away from the immediate negative situation; and second, it will allow you to unobtrusively get up close where you can better evaluate the interaction of child and adult to see if a reasonable suspicion of child abuse exists.

"You can say something like: 'She seems to be trying your patience,'" Ms. Koh advises. "Or maybe, 'Children can really wear you out sometimes. Is there anything I can do to help?'"

Sometimes it's better to speak directly to the child. "This is especially effective if the child's misbehavior seems to be driving the adult to distraction," Ms. Koh notes. "In cases like that, say something like, 'That's a great baseball cap. Are you an Angels fan?' Or maybe, 'What a cool tee-shirt! Did you get that on vacation?'"

The key isn't to memorize a set of phrases verbatim, but just to improvise on one's feet. It may be helpful to praise the parent or the child. "You can say, 'He has the most beautiful eyes,' or, 'That's a very pretty shirt on your little girl. Where did you get it?'" Ms. Koh suggests.

But what if one sees an unmistakable case of child abuse in progress? Ms. Koh says he or she needs to intervene to protect the life and safety of the child, and then notify the authorities as soon as possible.

"If you see someone hitting a child, or yelling at their kids, you can usually stop the behavior by saying something like, 'My kids hate shopping, too,' in a friendly,

non-threatening tone of voice," Ms. Koh insists. "The goal is to engage the offender without frightening them or putting them down. Say it softly, but let them know that other people are aware of what they're doing."

Why not just bully one's way in and confront the offender? That increases the risk of danger to the child. "If you make them feel bad," Ms. Koh observes, "chances are they may take it out on the child later, when no one's around to intervene."

Is it ever OK to not report suspected child abuse? What if the parent apologizes, and promises it won't happen again?

Ms. Koh says one should always call the police or the county child abuse hotline any time he or she suspects child abuse might be going on. "Call the child abuse hotline for your county and let them know that you'd like to report suspected child abuse."

"Just give them your information and tell them your concerns," she says. "It only takes 5 or 10 minutes to report by phone. Then within 72 hours, you'll be required to complete a short, written form. You do not need to witness the abuse event; you *are* required to report it even if all you have is a reasonable suspicion."

Ms. Koh admits that it takes a bit of effort to protect the lives of at-risk children, but she insists it's absolutely worth the effort.

"A lot of people think, 'It's none of my business.' But how would you feel if you were the victimized child? It's everybody's business!"

The San Bernardino County Child Abuse Hotline can be reached by dialing (800) 827-8724. In Riverside County, the number is (800) 442-4918. The County Child Abuse Prevention/Safe Kids program offers a host of safe parenting and child abuse intervention resources. It can be reached at (909) 387-8966.

For more information about the Keep Me Safe parenting conference at Loma Linda University—or additional information about the shaken baby syndrome prevention program—either call (909) 478-0111 or e-mail <preventchildabuse@llu.edu>.

## Report from the Boards of Trustees...

Continued from page 4

ments. There was lower than budgeted net revenue for the month resulting from a lower than expected census. However, this was mitigated by significantly lower than budgeted operating expenses for the month. Thus far in 2009, the patient mix has remained stable; however, LLUMC could experience future payor mix shifts given the current economic climate.

Rhodes Rigsby, MD, executive director for home care services, reported on the progress of home care services. He shared the follow-

ing: 1) what home care services do on a daily basis, 2) the historical context of home health, 3) the identified challenges and initial strategies for managing home health, 4) the interim results of these strategies, 5) concluding with discussion regarding innovative strategies that align clinical incentives and establish market share growth for home health.

Mel Sauder, JD, MBA, senior vice president for development and public affairs, shared an update on Beaumont Urgent Care. The Board approved the formation of

an Urgent Care LLC that will be a wholly owned subsidiary of Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Mr. Sauder presented a request to name the Beaumont project Highland Springs Medical Plaza. Signage will reflect the logos of Loma Linda University Medical Center, Beaver Medical Group, and Redlands Community Hospital. The Board approved the request, which is reflective of the collaboration that exists.

Lizette Norton, assistant vice president for human resource management, presented a summary of the 2008 human resource data, titled "Living Our Values in 2008." The report consisted of the following: 1) four projects implemented in 2008, which were the onboarding signup, performance appraisal, Carepix, and the hiring of a director of people services, 2) turnover rates, 3) vacancy rates, 4) overtime, 5) employee engagement, 6) performance appraisals, 7) employee relations cases and counsels, 8) diversity initiatives, 9) staffing indicators, 10) application and hiring statistics, 11) employee recognition programs, 12) investment in employee training, 13) employee work life benefits, 14) the wellness program, 15) the business internship program and the management residency program, 16) concluding with an overview of the programs offered the employees by the spiritual care department and the chaplain's office.

David Bland, MD, medical staff president, presented the medical staff report, which consisted of the following:

1) There were no disciplinary actions taken against any member of the medical staff.

2) The medical staff officers for July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010, will be voted at the June annual medical staff meeting.

Loma Linda Springs apartment complex, while receiving proton therapy.

He stressed how it would have been nearly impossible for him to receive the life-saving treatments had he not been able to stay locally while receiving therapy.

Mr. Hummel and his wife, Coca, who also attended the meeting, live in the San Diego area.

The appreciation dinner concluded when Dr. Martell dismissed the audience.

## Community Partners Appreciation Dinner...

Continued from page 6

provided a brief overview of the history of proton medicine, which was pioneered and developed at LLUMC by James M. Slater, MD.

The final business of the evening was an expression of appreciation to the community partners for providing housing to so many proton patients.

The tribute was offered by Albert Hummel, CEO of Cobrek Pharmaceuticals, who ran his company from a guest room at the

## How Miguel got a new lease on life...

Continued from page 5

she continues. "He's responding more cognitively, more kindly, and he seems so much happier than I ever remember."

"We're working on getting him ready for graduation."

"Yeah, I'll probably go to college," Miguel predicts. "Right now, there's a lot I want to do. I enjoy playing video games—World of Warcraft is my favorite—and I like to draw. I want to go swimming, and learn to drive."

For her part, Ms. Vert looks forward to returning to work next month. But she's also having a good

time right now. Maybe it's the way she smiles at Miguel, maybe it's the twinkle in her eye.

Whatever it is, one gets the impression that she's very, very happy her gift brought life to someone else.

"The whole experience was wonderful," Ms. Miranda concludes. "I really feel blessed and grateful beyond verbal expression."

"Michelle is just amazing! Meeting all the members of her family was wonderful, and the hospital staff was just awesome. If everyone gets a miracle in their life, this was mine!"





With hands raised to heaven, the children of Watoto praise God for giving them hope and a future. "Jesus has taken away their cries of despair and filled them with joy and gladness," said one of the adult chaperones for the touring group of Ugandan orphans who lost their parents to one of the two great scourges that have wracked their nation—AIDS and civil war. The children brought their exuberant blend of vibrant faith, high-spirited songs of praise, and traditional African rhythms to a chapel service in Loma Linda University Church on Wednesday, March 4, 2009, to raise money and awareness for the work of <www.watoto.com> in rescuing, raising, and rebuilding their lives. "We want to tell Jesus that you did not forget us," one of the children said.

## Ambassadors of exuberance: the children of Watoto visit LLUC

By JAMES PONDER

How do you spell exuberance?

If you were fortunate enough to be inside the Loma Linda University Church sanctuary the morning of Wednesday, March 4, 2009, you already know the answer—it's W-A-T-O-T-O.

On that date, the adorable children of the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda stopped by the church to sing their hearts out and fill God's house with praise. And despite the fact that they weren't complaining in the least, they informed everyone in attendance about the plight of African orphans who need the prayers and financial support of American Christians.

But despite the tragedy in their lives, the shadows of death and destruction were nowhere in sight when the Watotoans came for chapel. After a brief video introduction, which featured appeals from a number of prominent international superstars, the announcer asked a piercing question: why are the cries of Ugandan children louder in the homes of celebrities than in the church?

As if to make sure no one in attendance could ever forget them, the kids treated the near-capacity

audience to a powerful and triumphant celebration of the victory of hope over despair. With their upbeat, optimistic music and adrenaline-filled re-enactments of traditional African folk rhythms, they reflected the joy that comes to those who put their trust in God regardless of obstacles.

They know something about obstacles and hardship. Every one of these beautiful children lost their parents to AIDS or war. As Gary Skinner, senior pastor of Kampala Pentecostal Church in the Ugandan capital points out, "So many have died. ... So many children have been left orphaned and vulnerable. ... So many people have suffered. ... And with each devastating loss, Africa collectively cries out, 'Who will look after our children?'"

The question triggered a musical explosion of near-seismic proportion in response. Not the bombastic thunderings of cannons and gunfire, but the kind of bubbling-over ecstasy that occurs when 20 wonderful children—who know they've been delivered from a fate worse than death—come together to jubilantly praise God with every ounce of gratitude they've got.

These ambassadors of exuber-

ance performed one joyous, high-energy anthem of praise after another. With titles like, "I am not forgotten; God knows my name," "Dancing in the House of the Lord," and "Mambo Sawa—Life is Good," the songs left no doubt about the Source of the children's joy. Their colorful costumes and the elegantly painted ethnic art panels behind the singers also contributed to the impression of high-energy good times in the presence of the Lord.

Pastor Skinner says the poignant words of James 1:27 gripped his heart and mind during a visit to a Ugandan village. The New International Version translates the passage as follows: "Religion that God the Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after the orphan and the widow in their distress, and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

"In 1988, in a town called Luwero, I was changed," he notes. "There, amid the banana plantations of a 79-year-old widow who had outlived six of her seven children. ... There amid the fruit stands where, with grim irony, vendors displayed rows of human skulls the same size as the pineapples scattered among them. ... There amid a shocking spectacle of defiance and memory, I was confronted by a naked reality that I could not ignore."

Pastor Skinner says he felt God calling him to do something to help the children, but what, and how? Nearly a million people had already died from the waves of deadly disease and violent political upheaval that had rocked Uganda for decades. Where could he even start?

The answer fell into place during his visit to Luwero: "With the war at an end, Luwero's people began to mourn their losses, so the stalls became museums of death, where bananas, mangoes, and

pineapples were replaced with hundreds of human skulls. We stopped our car and I got out. As I held a skull in each hand, my heart broke for the people of Uganda who had suffered this way.

"The pastor of Luwero's young church took me to visit the widow I refer to in the beginning of this story. She was 79 years old and had mothered seven children. As we walked through the banana groves behind her small hut, she began to point out the graves of her husband and six of her children. AIDS had killed them all. Her last surviving child—a daughter—was dying of the same disease.

"Surrounded by her 23 grandchildren, she pleaded in the way only a mother who has known the certainty of deep loss can. 'I am an old woman and I can no longer dig. One day soon, I will also die. Who then will look after my grandchildren?' Her voice assumed the cry of a nation, a continent engaged in the emerging reality of impending devastation."

Since that haunting encounter in 1988, Pastor Skinner and his wife, Pastor Marilyn Skinner, have done everything they can to draw world attention to the plight of Ugandans. Not surprisingly, the Watoto Children's Choirs have been their most effective tools. The choirs have toured internationally since 1994, bringing their message of hope to many parts of the world including Uganda, Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, United States, South Africa, Brazil, Israel, Germany, and France.

"We exist to raise the next generation of Ugandan leaders," Pastor Skinner notes, "by pursuing excellence in academic and practical skills, integrity in conduct and moral values, so each child becomes a responsible Christian and a productive citizen of Uganda."

When the children took the microphone to share what they want to be when they grow up, it was apparent that the Skinners' efforts are on target. Eleven-year-old Joseph wants to be a teacher. Joshua, also 11, would like to serve God as a pastor.

Sharon, age 10, aspires to a career in nursing, while 11-year-old Gus wants to be a policeman. When the youngest members of the choir—8-year-old Mercy, 9-year-old Stephen, and 9-year-old Dovin—announce their dreams, the audience responds with passionate enthusiasm.

Mercy wants to be a teacher, Stephen an engineer, and smiley Dovin a pilot. The list goes on as every one of the children of Watoto announced his or her desire to become a responsible, contributing adult.

"The goal is to rescue 10,000 children in Uganda by 2023," notes Gary Skinner. "The vision is to replicate the Watoto model all across Africa through fostering alliances and partnerships between Christian leaders in Africa and the developed world."

To help the children of Watoto through financial support or by joining the Watoto team, visit <www.watoto.com>.

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Monday, April 6, 2009

**TODAY**

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• LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Medical Center  
• LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Children's Hospital  
• LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Medical Center—East Campus  
• LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Behavioral Medicine Center  
• LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Health Care  
• LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY Heart & Surgical Hospital  
• Faculty Medical Group of LLUSM  
• Faculty Physicians & Surgeons of LLUSM

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The Loma Linda University Church  
**Young Musicians Ensemble**  
and the  
**Mesa Grande Academy Chorale**

join together in performing  
**Mozart's "Vesperae solennes de Confessore" (Solemn Vesper)**

**Saturday, April 11**

5:00 p.m. | LLU Church Sanctuary